Chancellor’s Committee on Sustainability and Energy

Chairs
Rob Dixon, Registrar, Office of Registration and Records
George Crabtree, Professor, Department of Physics; Director, The Energy Initiative

Subcommittee Co-Chairs
Energy and Utilities
Dave Hofman, Professor and Head, Department of Physics
Robert Roman, Director of Utilities, Utilities Operations

Grounds
Robert Mason-Gamer, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences
Carly Rizor, Superintendent of Grounds, Facilities Management

Sustainable Materials
Ning Ai, Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Policy + Institute for Environmental Science and Policy
Gabriel Bernal, Assistant Director for Facilities Management, Facilities Management

Transportation
Kate Lowe, Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Policy
Kevin Shalla, IT Director, Academic and Enrollment Services

Teaching and Learning
Elizabeth A. Kocs, Director of Programming and Outreach, The Energy Initiative; Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Planning and Policy
Thomas L. Theis, Director, Institute for Environmental Science and Policy

Prepared by the UIC Office of Sustainability in conjunction with the Chancellor’s Committee on Sustainability and Energy (CCSE)

Office of the Chancellor
Office of the Chancellor for Administrative Services
Climate Commitments

The Chancellor’s Committee on Sustainability and Energy (CCSE) sets forth recommendations to achieve goals outlined in the UIC Climate Action Plan. In addition to committing to reduce the University’s carbon emissions to 40% below 2004 levels by 2030 and 80% below 2004 levels by 2050, UIC is also committed to creating a resilient campus and recognizes the impacts of climate change.

The CCSE is updating the goals of the 2009 Climate Action Plan to include resiliency and the recommendations of To Green and Beyond: Excellence Through Sustainability at UIC- Sustainability Strategic Thinking Report (SST). These new goals are now the UIC Climate Commitments:

1) Carbon Neutral Campus. UIC will strive to achieve carbon neutrality with net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through reducing and offsetting emissions related to operations and travel.

2) Zero Waste Campus. UIC defines zero waste as a 90% diversion rate of landfill-bound material through techniques such as source reduction, materials reuse, recycling, and composting.

3) Net Zero Water Campus. UIC will use the same amount of water in its operations (irrigation, plumbing, etc.) as the amount of natural rainfall on UIC’s campus.

4) Biodiverse Campus. UIC will create a resilient campus landscape supportive of a variety of life, such as plants, animals, and people.

This document solidifies the UIC Climate Commitments by connecting them to aspirational goals that offer visionary solutions and short-term action items that ensure progress over the next five years.
1 **Carbon Neutral Campus**
UIC will strive to achieve carbon neutrality with net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through reducing and offsetting emissions related to operations and travel.

2 **Zero Waste Campus**
UIC defines zero waste as a 90% diversion rate of landfill-bound material through techniques such as source reduction, materials reuse, recycling, and composting.

3 **Net Zero Water Campus**
UIC will use the same amount of water in its operations (irrigation, plumbing, etc.) as the amount of natural rainfall on UIC’s campus.

4 **Biodiverse Campus**
UIC will create a resilient campus landscape supportive of a variety of life, such as plants, animals, and people.
1 Carbon Neutral Campus
1. Carbon Neutral Campus

Aspirational Goals

1A. Reduce Building Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions
Reduce building GHG emissions related to building operation by 8,500 metric tons CO2 equivalent (mtCO2e) per year over the next five years.

1B. Invest in Renewable Energy
Purchase renewable energy through a long-term power purchase agreement. Integrate solar power electricity generation into campus structures, such as roofs, parking lots and structures.

1C. Utilize Parking Lots and Structures
Use parking lots and structures as an environmental asset to generate and save energy.

1D. Enhance Existing Power Generation
Optimize use of on-site cogeneration to maximize efficiency.

1E. Increase Alternative Transportation
Eliminate barriers to alternative modes for intracampus travel and commuting.

Short-Term Action Items

I. Increase Building Energy Efficiency
i. Continually reduce energy demand and intensity.
ii. Update UIC’s Energy Policy and the UIC Building Standards to promote energy efficiency.
iii. Utilize LED lighting for all new lights and retrofit others by 2025.
iv. Install outdoor lighting that is sensitive to night sky protection.

II. Build to Higher Level of LEED Certification
i. Seek LEED Gold Certification for all new construction and aspire to LEED Platinum Certification.
ii. Continue to achieve LEED Silver Certification for applicable major renovations over $5 million.

III. Enhance Campus Fleet Management and Campus Shuttle Buses
i. Increase proportion of hybrid, electric, and compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles in campus fleet to 75% within 5 years.
ii. Reduce campus fleet fuel consumption by 15% within 5 years.
iii. Reconfigure campus shuttle bus routes to reduce carbon emissions.
iv. Promote a culture of no-idling for vehicles on campus.
IV. Reduce Emissions from Interuniversity Travel
   i. Reduce private vehicle travel to and from other University of Illinois campuses.

V. Support Implementation of the 2015 Multimodal Transportation Plan
   i. Improve pedestrian and bicycle circulation and safety throughout the UIC campus and surrounding area.
   ii. Expand bike-parking capacity by 10% within 5 years.

VI. Educate for Energy
   i. Utilize energy dashboards as educational tools.
   ii. Create energy conservation campaigns by using energy dashboards.
   iii. Develop both curricular and co-curricular programs that promote energy literacy.
2
Zero Waste Campus
2. Zero Waste Campus

Aspirational Goals

2A. Increase Waste Diversion Rates
Divert 90% of waste from landfills.

2B. Shape a new culture of closed-loop waste management operations
Develop a Recycling and Composting Policy.
Divert 90% of construction and demolition waste from landfill.

2C. Serve as a resource for the City of Chicago
Plan an on-site or local area facility for food waste recovery, such as food scrap composting, anaerobic digestion, and waste-to-energy generation.

2D. Enhance Zero Waste Education
Design new and integrated curriculum around the concept of zero waste.
Promote co-curricular activities and educational programs for waste reduction.

Short-Term Action Items

I. Promote Activities and Educational Programs for Waste Reduction

II. Integrate Requirements for Sustainable Practices and Materials into Purchasing and Service Contracts

III. Reduce Bottled Water Use

IV. Increase the Number of Green Guide-Certified Events
3. Net Zero Water

Aspirational Goals

3A. Manage and Reduce Stormwater Runoff through Design and Retrofitting
Design and retrofit hardscapes (impermeable surfaces such as plazas, walkways, parking lots ad structures, driveways, etc.) to minimize flooding and runoff.

Design and retrofit landscapes to minimize flooding and runoff by utilizing green infrastructure.

3B. Capture Stormwater for Irrigation
Explore opportunities to design and retrofit for cisterns, rain barrels, or other water retention systems on campus.

3C. Explore Design for Greywater Infrastructure
Create a pilot project within a new construction project at UIC.

Short-Term Action Items

I. Manage and Reduce Stormwater within Parking Lots and Structures
i. Construct Parking Lot 1A and 1B with permeable pavement and a mix of concrete types for the lot’s pavement surface: porous (permeable) concrete (in the parking stalls) and traditional concrete (in the drive lanes).

II. Reduce Campus Water Use
i. Complete water consumption assessments of campus facilities.
ii. Establish goals for water consumption reduction.

III. Update UIC Building Standards to Promote Water Conservation through Efficiency Improvements
Biodiverse Campus
4. Biodiverse Campus

Aspirational Goals

4A. Promote Consumption of Local Food on Campus
Explore contracting options with local and regional food vendors and opportunities for on-site food production.

Short-Term Action Items

I. Promote Local Produce on Campus
i. Host a farmers market and bring local and regional food to the campus community.
ii. Investigate the utilization of UIC’S greenhouse area near the Plant Research Laboratory for food production.
iii. Include provisions to increase local food sourcing in future food service contracts.

II. Enhance Tree Canopy and Diversity
i. Increase tree biodiversity by planting no more than 5% of the campus tree inventory with trees of the same species and 10% of the same genus.
ii. Increase tree canopy coverage to 25% by 2030.
iii. Use sustainable landscaping methods on campus.